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EXCISEDEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

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Reviewed by: Eljahn Kelly Jr.Date: January 3 19 91

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

FROM: Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Acting Secretary

1. Chinese on Fulbright Restoration. Chinese education officials called in our Public Affairs Officer today to discuss restoring the Fulbright program. They made no specific offer, but asked for suggestions on how to proceed. We proposed full resumption as soon as possible, with the same scholars originally scheduled for this year's program. The earlier PRC threat to suspend all postgraduate exchanges was not mentioned. Embassy Beijing reports that Chinese reaction to the Scowcroft trip is uniformly positive, that access to Chinese officials has begun to improve, and that the suspension of USIA's International Visitor Program also may soon be lifted. These actions, together with the earlier PRC statement on missiles, accreditation of a VOA correspondent, and virtual cessation of anti-American rhetoric, are evidence of serious PRC intent to respond to your overture.

2. Meeting with Baena Soares. I met with the OAS Secretary General this morning to urge a more balanced and vigorous monitoring effort on the Nicaraguan elections. I cited Center for Democracy eyewitness accounts that the violence at Masatepe was instigated by the Sandinistas and stressed it was vital that OAS observers uphold the highest standards of coverage and reporting. Baena said he agreed on the importance of unbiased election observation, that he wanted to discuss specifics with the Center for Democracy observers next week and claimed that an OAS initiative to limit future violence was prospering and might even be signed today. Following the meeting, I read a statement to the press condemning Sandinista election violence, which I said endangered the Central American peace process.

3. South Africa. Bob Kimmitt met today with the ANC's number three, Thabo Mbeki. Bob told Mbeki that the U.S. is serious about helping to achieve a peaceful transition to a non-racial and democratic South Africa. Mbeki thanked us for the initiative taken in receiving opposition leaders and especially your meeting with Albertina Sisulu last summer. He said that the ANC is open to the opportunity for peaceful change being presented by South African President de Klerk. Mbeki noted that Nelson Mandela had held a series of meetings with de Klerk's senior advisors before meeting the President himself earlier this week. He also revealed that the recently released political prisoners plan to visit ANC headquarters in Lusaka in late January to join deliberations and negotiations process.

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